
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§141- Healthy soils program; established. (a) There
5 is established within the department of agriculture a healthy
6 soils program. The healthy soils program shall:

7 (1) Create a statewide soil health assessment, with a list
8 of practices specific to the State that are most
9 effective for improving soil health and building soil
10 carbon stocks;

11 (2) Provide farmers with educational and technical
12 assistance to implement farm management practices that
13 contribute to healthy soils;

14 (3) Establish standards for the healthy soils program that
15 are based on the findings of the greenhouse gas
16 sequestration task force established pursuant to



1 section 225P-4, including standards establishing the
2 minimum levels of soil carbon and water content;

3 (4) Establish standards for soil health that take a
4 holistic approach to land management by integrating
5 cultural, biological, and mechanical practices;
6 cycling nutrients; promoting ecological balance; and
7 conserving biodiversity;

8 (5) Establish standards to phase out the use of
9 petrochemical synthetic fertilizers over a period of
10 five to ten years; provided that during the
11 petrochemical synthetic fertilizer phase-out period,
12 the department of agriculture shall provide farmers
13 with assistance in adopting a holistic approach to
14 land management that integrates cultural, biological,
15 and mechanical practices; cycles nutrients; promotes
16 ecological balance; and conserves biodiversity; and

17 (6) Issue awards and other financial incentives, subject
18 to available funding, to implement farm management
19 practices that contribute to healthy soils.

20 (b) The long-term goals of the healthy soils program shall
21 be to establish:



1 (1) The date by which all awards issued by the department
2 of agriculture pursuant to subsection (a)(6) shall
3 meet the standards established pursuant to subsection
4 (a)(3);

5 (2) The date by which a healthy soils plan shall be
6 required for all state lands leased for agricultural
7 use; and

8 (3) Programs incentivizing small farmers, ranchers, and
9 landowners in the State to take carbon-negative
10 actions on their respective lands.

11 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report
12 detailing the status and progress of the healthy soils program
13 and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to
14 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
15 of each regular session."

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
20 2024-2025 for establishing the healthy soils program and for



1 issuing awards and other financial incentives pursuant to the
2 program.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



S.B. NO. 660 S.D. 2

Report Title:

HDOA; Healthy Soils Program; Carbon Sequestration; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Healthy Soils program within the Department of Agriculture. Appropriates funds. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

